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President Shelly Applauds the 22nd Navajo Nation Council for Confirming Eight Appointees

Window Rock, AZ—President Ben Shelly today announced the confirmation of eight appointees by the 22nd Navajo Nation Council at the 2011 Spring Session.

“The Shelly-Jim Administration has selected the best and brightest public servants to serve our Navajo people,” President Shelly stated late Thursday evening. “All eight appointees have pledged to move our nation forward and we are very pleased the Navajo Nation Council confirmed everyone. I thank them for their vote of confidence.”

The following eight appointees were confirmed this week.

D. Harrison Tsosie will serve as the Attorney General for the Navajo Nation Department of Justice. His educational background includes a bachelor’s of science in psychology and an associate of science degree in Native American studies from the University of Utah. Mr. Tsosie received his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Utah in 1995. He was a former Deputy Attorney General of the Navajo Nation.

“I am honored to serve President Shelly’s Administration and I promise to work in the best interests of the Navajo people and the nation,” stated Mr. Tsosie.

Ms. Dana Bobroff was confirmed as the Deputy Director for the Navajo Nation Department of Justice and has been a state-licensed attorney since 2000. She is licensed to practice law in New Mexico, Arizona, and the Navajo Nation. Ms. Bobroff is also currently licensed as a certified public accountant through the State of Arizona. Her extensive experience includes litigating on behalf of tribal governments and tribal members in tribal, state, and federal courts, as well as federal administrative tribunals, at both the trial court and appellate court levels.

“The Department of Justice’s mission is to protect and enhance the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation by all means necessary and I will continue to provide legal support to all programs,” said Ms. Bobroff.

Mrs. Sharon Begay-McCabe is serving her first appointment by the Shelly-Jim Administration as the Executive Director of the Division of Social Services. She was a former Navajo Nation prosecutor for six years, a tribal court advocate for eight years and a tribal court judge for ten years. Mrs. Begay-McCabe has worked for the Navajo Nation, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Pueblo of Zuni and Yavapai-Apache Nation. She has a master’s and bachelor’s degree in social work from Western New Mexico University with honors. Mrs. Begay-McCabe is also the first Native American to obtain a Tribal Judicial Skills certification from the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada.

“From my experiences I was able to work closely with social services and I took it upon myself to bring the standard of practice of social workers to a much higher level that incorporates ethics, accountability and transparency,” Mrs. Begay-McCabe told the Council. “Social work is a profession that helps the well-being of individuals, families and communities and I will help restore the social and traditional ways of living.”

Mr. Albert Damon will continue his work as Executive Director of the Division of Economic Development. He is a graduate of architecture from the University of Oklahoma and currently taking his Professional License Exams to become a Registered Architect. He has also been providing professional architecture services from his firm since 1992. Mr. Damon has designed and built structures all throughout the United States as well as the Navajo Nation. His experience includes assisting the Regional Business Development Office in land use planning and developments and has designed a 25-acre tract in Indian wells for retail and governmental functions.

“Under my leadership the Division of Economic Development will provide sound planning and direction to our business partners and entities on the Navajo Nation to provide economic prosperity for all,” said Mr. Damon.

Mr. Tom Ranger was confirmed as the Executive Director of the Division of Human Resources. His extensive experience includes serving as the Director of Native American Leadership at the Covey Leadership Center, the former Chief of Staff under the Begaye/McKenzie Administration, and was an adjunct professor at Dixie State College in St. George, Utah. Mr. Ranger holds an advanced degree from Weber State University in Family Studies with a minor in Sales and Service Technology and completed graduate courses at the Marriott School of Management’s MBA program with an emphasis in Organizational Behavior at Brigham Young University.

Mr. Ranger stated his division needed a new makeover, “Efficient and effective services should be provided immediately and all Navajo Nation employees should be cross-trained to assist our customers better. My realignment plan will enable all employees to provide the best services available to our people because that is our purpose—to serve the people when they need us.”

Mr. John Billison will continue his appointment as the Executive Director for the Division of Public Safety. He is presently an MBA candidate in health care management with the University of Phoenix and will complete his candidacy in June 2011. Mr. Billison obtained his bachelor’s of science in health care services. For the last five years, he has served as a commissioned peace officer with the Navajo Department of Criminal Investigations.

“It is a great honor to have been selected by President Shelly to provide leadership for the Division of Public Safety,” stated Mr. Billison. “I will strive to respect and protect the rights and dignity of all citizens through trust, honesty, integrity and accountability.”

Two re-appointed division directors confirmed were Stephen B. Etsitty, Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency, a post he has held for the last eight years. In addition, Arbin Mitchell, Executive Director of the Division of Community Development, which he has held since 2005.

Mr. Etsitty, the first confirmed appointee stated, “I would like to express my sincere gratitude to President Shelly for re-appointing me and also to Delegate Katherine Benally for sponsoring the legislation for my confirmation.”